

REMARKS

Indication that claims 1 and 3 are allowed is appreciated. In this Response, claims 4 and 5 are amended. Claims 11-17 are added. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-17 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and remarks made herein.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 4 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,038,561, issued to *Snyder et al.* (hereinafter "*Snyder*"), for the reasons set forth on pages 2-4 of the Office Action.

Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the elements of claim 5 that the Examiner has indicated are allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that inasmuch as claims 7-10 are dependent on claim 4, and claim 4 is patentable over *Snyder*, claims 7-10 are patentable as dependent on a patentable independent claim. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objections

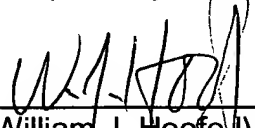
Claims 5 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Applicants respectfully submit that inasmuch as claims 5 and 6 are dependent on claim 4, and claim 4 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter, claims 5 and 6 are patentable as dependent on a patentable independent claim. Withdrawal of the instant claim objections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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